

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention relates to an antimicrobial, tubular, single- or multilayer polymer-based foodstuff casing, premoistened so as to be ready-to-fill, which comprises, as antimicrobial constituent, an alkyl para-hydroxybenzoate having from 1 to 10 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety, and/or a salt thereof, and also, if appropriate, comprises another antimicrobial agent, in particular one which reduces water activity, i.e.  $a_w$  value. This casing is preferably used as sausage casing.